

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SCI-06 AEC-11 SAJ-01 OIC-04

OMB-01 SAM-01 TRSE-00 FEA-02 NEA-14 DRC-01 /185 W
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R 041620Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5160

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBSSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

S E C R E T ROME 7675

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, TCH, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN NPT RATIFICATION

REF: BONN 8718

1. WE ARE NOT SURPRISED BY THE LINE WHICH ITALIAN FONOFF POLITICAL DIRECTOR DUCCI TOOK IN CONVERSATION WITH HIS FRG COUNTER-PART VAN WELL CONCERNING GOI INTENTIONS TOWARD NPT RATIFICATION (REFTEL). THE FOREIGN OFFICE HERE IN CONVERSATION WITH US OVER THE PAST YEAR OR MORE HAS VARIOUSLY USED BOTH THE PARLIAMENTARY AND NON-RATIFICATION BY CERTAIN MEDITERRANEAN STATES ARGUMENTS, IN ADDITION TO OTHERS, TO EXPLAIN ITALIAN LACK OF ENTHUSIASM IN PROCEEDING WITH THE RATIFICATION PROCESS. WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ASSURED, DESPITE THESE MISGIVINGS, THAT THE GOI INTENDS TO

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FULFILL ITS COMMITMENTS, ALBEIT ACCORDING TO ITS OWN RATIFICATION

SCHEDULE WHICH REQUIRES SEPARATE AND PRELIMINARY RATIFICATION OF SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT. WE HAVE OCCASIONALLY SUSPECTED, HOWEVER, AS FRG FONOFF DISARMAMENT DIRECTOR REMARKED TO BONN EMBOFF (PARA 4, REFTL), THAT FARNESINA EXCUSES FOR DELAY IN RATIFICATION WERE A POSSIBLE COVERUP FOR A DESIRE NOT TO RATIFY, OR AT LEAST TO KEEP THE OPTION OPEN AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT THE SPECTRE OF PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION RAISED BY DUCCI IS GREATLY OVERDRAWN. WE RECALL THAT SIX MONTHS BEFORE THE GOI SIGNED THE NPT IN JANUARY, 1969, PARLIAMENT EXPRESSED ITSELF 90 PCT IN FAVOR OF THE TREATY.

2. WHATEVER THE TRUE GOI INTENTIONS MAY BE REGARDING NPT RATIFICATION, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD NOW BRING ALL REASONABLE PRESSURE TO BEAR ON THE ITALIANS TO SUBMIT THE TREATY TO PARLIAMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. TO THIS END, WE SHOULD ALSO OBTAIN A CLEAR READING ON PARLIAMENTARY ATTITUDES TOWARD THE TREATY. CONSEQUENTLY, WE INTEND TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING STEPS TO TEST PARLIAMENTARY TEMPERATURE ON THIS ISSUE: A) RAISE SUBJECT AT THE EARLIEST CONVENIENT OCCASION WITH PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO ARE BOTH LEADING PARLIAMENTARY FIGURES AS WELL AS GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AND B) SOUND OUT SELECTED PARLIAMENTARIANS WHO ARE NOT NOW IN GOVERNMENT.

3. BEFORE RAISING THE ISSUE, HOWEVER, WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON DUCCI'S CONVICTION THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO INDICATION THAT DELIVERY OF AMERICAN FISSIONABLE MATERIAL WOULD BE AFFECTED BY DELAY IN THE RATIFICATION OF THE NPT. DEPARTMENT IS OF COURSE AWARE (ROME'S 6225) THAT GOI LAWYERS SEE NO URGENCY IN RATIFYING NPT, BUT, BELIEVE INSTEAD THAT RATIFICATION OF SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT WILL ENSURE CONTINUED FLOW OF FISSIONABLE MATERIAL, DESPITE ICLE'S ADVICE TO ORTONA (STATE 87602 PARA 1A & 1B). IN ADDITION, AND PARTICULARLY IN THE LIGHT OF THE RECENT INDIAN EXPLOSION OF A NUCLEAR DEVICE, IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR US TO HAVE UP TO DATE GUIDANCE ON APPROPRIATE RESPONSE TO DUCCI'S OBSERVATION THAT THE U.S. CONTINUES TO SUPPLY FISSIONABLE MATERIALS TO STATES NOT RPT NOT PARTIES TO THE NPT.BEAUDRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR AGREEMENTS, NPT, TREATY RATIFICATION, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ROME07675
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740142-0107
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740676/aaaacobi.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BONN 8718
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAR 2002 by kellyw0>; APPROVED <08 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ITALIAN NPT RATIFICATION
TAGS: PARM, IT, TCH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005